

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 695

Introduced by Senator Kehoe

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 10265 to the Public Resources Code, relating to resource conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 695, as amended, Kehoe. Conservation easement *and agricultural conservation easement* registry.

Existing law authorizes various agencies to acquire land for purposes related to conservation. Existing law specifies certain requirements and procedures for the acquisition of conservation lands.

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation establishing a central, public registry of conservation easements for the purpose of monitoring conservation easements~~ *require the Secretary of the Resources Agency to establish a central public registry of all conservation easements, as defined, and all agricultural conservation easements, as defined, held by the agency, its departments or divisions, or any board, commission, or conservancy under the authority of the agency, or purchased with funds provided by any department or division of the agency, or any board, commission, or conservancy under the authority of the agency. The bill would provide that the registry shall be accessible for use by the general public and provide information on these conservation and agricultural conservation easements, as specified..*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation establishing a central, public registry of conservation easements for the purpose of monitoring conservation easements.~~

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Conservation easements and agricultural conservation easements are a valuable tool and a cost-effective way to protect the state's natural resources.

(b) It is important to ensure that the public has information on how moneys are spent by state agencies when purchasing easements for the preservation and protection of critically needed conservation and agricultural lands.

(c) Information regarding easements should be disseminated in a readily and easily available manner.

(d) A central public registry of conservation easements and agricultural conservation easements would ensure that the public has access to information that would lead to better awareness and monitoring of easements held by the state or purchased with state moneys.

SEC. 2 Section 10265 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

10265. (a) The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall establish a central public registry of all conservation easements, as defined in Section 815.1 of the Civil Code, and all agricultural conservation easements, as defined in Section 10211, held by the agency, its departments or divisions, or any board, commission, or conservancy under the authority of the agency, or purchased with funds provided by any department or division of the agency, or any board, commission, or conservancy under the authority of the agency.

(b) The registry shall be accessible for use by the general public and shall provide information on conservation easements and agricultural conservation easements described in subdivision (a).

(c) The registry shall provide, at a minimum, all of the following information on conservation easements and agricultural conservation easements:

(1) A copy of the easement.

- 1 (2) *The purpose of the easement.*
- 2 (3) *The location of the easement.*
- 3 (4) *The identity of the easement holder.*
- 4 (5) *Any monitoring reports filed related to the easement.*
- 5 (6) *A report of any enforcement action taken related to the*
- 6 *easement.*

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